

P5285a

09/690,694

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 21-23 are presented for prosecution. Claims 1, 8, and 21 are amended. Claims 20, 24-27 are currently cancelled. Claim 19 was previously cancelled.

In a telephone interview with Examiner Nguyen on March 22, 2006, it was agreed that the feature of the present invention in which the clearing of the buffer is triggered by the printer transitioning into its first state (i.e. its off-line state) appears novel over the cited prior, however expressed a concern that the current claim language might be a bit too broad.

Examiner Nguyen explained that she would accept wording such as, automatic clearing of the buffer upon entering the first state to indicate a cause-and-effect sequence, and further requested that language from claim 9 be added to all independent claims. Lastly, Examiner Nguyen also suggested the inclusion of additional language specifically that the buffer is cleared without need of a real-time buffer clearing command from a host device in order to assuredly avoid the prior art.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, claims 1, 8, and 21 are amended to include the requested language.

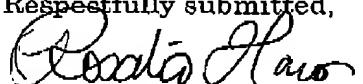
No new matter is added by the above amendments.

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This Response After Final Rejection is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. At the very least, however, it is believed clear that the formal rejection has been overcome by adoption of the Examiner's suggested claim changes. Accordingly, entry of this Response After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, she is respectfully requested to contact applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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